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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates generally to compositions and methods for the
5 treatment of body weight disorders including, but not limited to, obesity. More specifically,
the present invention relates to nucleic acids encoding a human UCP2 polypeptide; a human
UCP2 polypeptides encoded by such nucleic acids; recombinant nucleic acid molecules
containing nucleic acids encoding a human UCP2 polypeptide; cells containing such
recombinant nucleic acid molecules; a method for producing human UCP2 polypeptides; and
10 methods for detecting modulators of *UCP2* gene expression and UCP2 polypeptide
expression.